



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/729,051	12/04/2000	Glenn G. Bingham	004701.P005	4545

826 7590 04/02/2003

ALSTON & BIRD LLP  
BANK OF AMERICA PLAZA  
101 SOUTH TRYON STREET, SUITE 4000  
CHARLOTTE, NC 28280-4000

EXAMINER	
BAYAT, BRADLEY B	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3621	

DATE MAILED: 04/02/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/729,051

Applicant(s)

BINGHAM ET AL.

Examiner

Bradley Bayat

Art Unit

3621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12/4/2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4, 5, 8.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

### **DETAILED ACTION**

Claims 1- 28 are presented for examination.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 2, 15 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

- Claims 2, 15 and 22: "...determining a price for said meeting package based on said customer profile." Indefinite as to whether pricing is based on predefined profile only or combination of profile and other criteria.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1, 14, 21 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by non-patent literature cited in applicant's IDS: eventsource.com, plansoft.com and Meeting News article by Cipriani (C1, C10 and C16 respectively).

As per claims 1, 14, 21 and 28, the above cited references provide a platform to define meeting facility resources, including meeting rooms and guest rooms; receive reservation request for a meeting package by a user; and reserve said request in relation to a profile and pre-determined criteria.

Claims 1-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Krasnick et al. (US 2002/0032592 A1), Bingham et al. (U.S. Patent 6,324,517 B1) and Ralston et al. (U.S. Patent 6,389,454 B1), respectively. The '517 reference has a common inventor with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). The '517 rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention "by another," or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

As per claims 1, 14 and 21, the above references disclose a method of defining a meeting package including a plurality of meeting facility resources, including a meeting room and a guest room of a meeting facility; receiving a reservation request for said meeting package from a user; and reserving each of said plurality of meeting facility resources in response to receiving said reservation request (see Krasnick paragraphs [0006] to [0021]; Bingham figure 7 and associated text; Ralston column 2, line 49 – column 3, line 55 and column 7, lines 35-45).

As per claims 2, 15 and 22, the above references disclose the method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising: defining a customer profile for said user, wherein defining a meeting package comprises determining a price for said meeting package based on said customer profile

Art Unit: 3621

(see Krasnick paragraphs [0030] and [0039]; Bingham column 5, lines 63-66; Ralston columns 4-7).

As per claims 3, 16 and 23, the above references disclose the method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising: storing inventory data for said meeting facility, wherein defining a meeting package comprises (see Krasnick figure 3, item 42, 44, 46 and associated text; Bingham column 3, lines 10-27): determining whether each of said plurality of meeting facility resources is available for reservation utilizing said inventory data (see Krasnick figure 3, item 48 and associated text; Bingham column 4, lines 58-67); and displaying said inventory data for said meeting facility in response to a determination that each of said plurality of meeting facility resources is not available for reservation, and further wherein reserving each of said plurality of meeting facility resources in response to receiving said reservation request comprises: reserving each of said plurality of meeting facility resources in response to a determination that each of said plurality of meeting facility resources is available for reservation (see Krasnick figure 3, items 48, 50, 52 and associated text; Bingham figures 13 and 14 and associated text; Ralston columns 4-7).

As per claim 4, the above references disclose the method as set forth in claim 3, wherein reserving each of said plurality of meeting facility resources in response to receiving said reservation request further comprises updating said inventory data (see Krasnick paragraphs [0044] – [0047]; Bingham figure 14 and associated text; Ralston columns 4-7).

As per claim 5, the above references disclose the method as set forth in claim 1, wherein: defining a meeting package comprises defining a meeting package for each of a plurality of meeting facilities; and receiving a reservation request for said meeting package from a user

comprises receiving a user selection of one of said plurality of meeting packages (see Krasnick paragraph [0044], figure 3 and associated text; Bingham figures 13 and 14 with associated text).

As per claim 6, the above references disclose the method as set forth in claim 1, wherein reserving each of said plurality of meeting facility resources comprises transmitting a confirmation message to said user (see Krasnick paragraphs [0042] to [0044]; Bingham column 10, lines 51-56; Ralston columns 4-7).

As per claims 7, 17 and 24, the above references disclose the method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising: receiving meeting facility criteria including a preferred meeting date, a guest room quantity, and a meeting room quantity, wherein defining a meeting package comprises defining said meeting package based on said meeting facility criteria (see Krasnick paragraph [0020]; Bingham figures 12-14 and associated text; Ralston columns 4-7).

As per claims 8, 18 and 25, the above references disclose the method as set forth in claim 7, further comprising: defining a reservation rule for said meeting facility, wherein defining a meeting package based on said meeting facility criteria comprises: determining whether said meeting facility criteria satisfy said reservation rule; and identifying said reservation rule to said user in response to a determination that said meeting facility criteria do not satisfy said reservation rule (see Krasnick paragraphs [0028] – [0029]; Bingham figures 9 and 10 with associated text; Ralston columns 4-7).

As per claims 9, 19 and 26, the above references disclose the method as set forth in claim 8, wherein defining a meeting package based on said meeting facility criteria further comprises: modifying one of said meeting facility criteria in response to a determination that said meeting facility criteria do not satisfy said reservation rule; and defining said meeting package based on

said modified meeting facility criterion (see Krasnick paragraphs [0032] – [0041]; Bingham column 3, lines 10-27; Ralston columns 4-7).

As per claim 10, the above references disclose the method as set forth in claim 9, wherein modifying one of said meeting facility criteria comprises: prompting said user to adjust said meeting facility criteria; and receiving an adjusted meeting facility criterion in response to said prompting (see Krasnick paragraph [0039]; Bingham figure 9 and associated text; Ralston columns 4-7).

As per claim 11, the above references disclose the method as set forth in claim 7, further comprising: defining a reservation rule for said meeting facility, wherein defining a meeting package based on said meeting facility criteria comprises determining whether said meeting facility criteria satisfy said reservation rule; and modifying said reservation rule in response to a determination that said meeting facility criteria do not satisfy said reservation rule (see Krasnick paragraph [0020]; Bingham figure 9 and associated text; Ralston columns 4-7).

As per claims 12, 20 and 27, the above references disclose the method as set forth in claim 11, further comprising: defining a reservation quota for said meeting facility, wherein modifying said reservation rule comprises: determining whether said reservation quota is satisfied; and modifying said reservation rule in response to a determination that said reservation quota is not satisfied (see Krasnick paragraphs [0032] and [0037]; Bingham figures 13 and 14 with associated text, e.g., percentage of room occupancy rate; Ralston columns 4-7).

As per claim 13, the above references disclose the method as set forth in claim 7, wherein: receiving meeting facility criteria comprises receiving food and beverage information; and defining a meeting package based on said meeting facility criteria comprises defining a

meeting package including a plurality of meeting facility resources, said plurality of meeting facility resources including food and beverage service (see Krasnick paragraph [0039]; Bingham figure 6A and associated text; Ralston columns 4-7).

As per claim 28, the above references disclose a communications network comprising: a meeting planner client to receive meeting facility criteria and a reservation request for a meeting package including a plurality of meeting facility resources from a user, said plurality of meeting facility resources including a meeting room and a guest room of a meeting facility; a data storage device to store a customer profile for said user, a reservation rule and inventory data for said meeting facility, and a meeting package definition for said meeting package; and a meeting package reservation server coupled to said meeting planner client via said communications network to create said meeting package definition utilizing said customer profile, said reservation rule, and said inventory data, to display said meeting package definition to said user and to receive said reservation request from said user via said meeting planner client, and to reserve each of said plurality of meeting facility resources in response to receiving said reservation request (see Krasnick paragraphs [0006] to [0039]; Bingham column 5, lines 63-66 and figure 7 and associated text; Ralston column 2, line 49 – column 3, line 55 and column 7, lines 35-45 and columns 4-7).

### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Patent No. 5,933,810 to Okawa, Reservation Management Apparatus and Method for Making Arrangements According to Degrees of Importance of Reservations.



- Patent No. 5,909,668 to Fukuma, Banquet Hall Reservation Management System.
- Patent Application Publication US 2002/0016729 A1 to Breitenbach et al., System and Method for Scheduling Events and Associated Products and Services.
- Patent Application Publication US 2001/0029460 A1 to Yonemitsu, Schedule Management System.
- Patent Application Publication US 2001/0014865 A1 to Franke, Method and System for Conducting a Plurality of Cyber-Based Conventions.

Examiner has pointed out particular references contained in the prior arts of record in the body of this action for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant, in preparing the response, to consider fully the entire references as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior arts or disclosed by the examiner.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bradley Bayat whose telephone number is 703-305-8548. The examiner can normally be reached Tuesday – Friday during normal business hours.

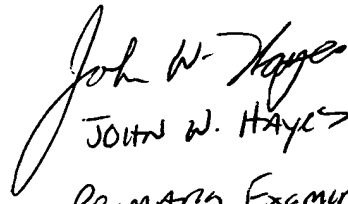
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on 703-305-9768. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-6128 for regular communications and 703-746-6128 for After Final communications.

Art Unit: 3621

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-5484.

bbb

March 12, 2003

  
JOHN W. HAYES  
PRIMARY Examiner

## **Recent Statutory Changes to 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)**

On November 2, 2002, President Bush signed the 21st Century Department of Justice Appropriations Authorization Act (H.R. 2215) (Pub. L. 107-273, 116 Stat. 1758 (2002)), which further amended 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as revised by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) (Pub. L. 106-113, 113 Stat. 1501 (1999)). The revised provisions in 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) are completely retroactive and effective immediately for all applications being examined or patents being reexamined. Until all of the Office's automated systems are updated to reflect the revised statute, citation to the revised statute in Office actions is provided by this attachment. This attachment also substitutes for any citation of the text of 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), if made, in the attached Office action.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 102 in view of the AIPA and H.R. 2215 that forms the basis for the rejections under this section made in the attached Office action:

**A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –**

**(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.**

35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as revised by the AIPA and H.R. 2215, applies to all qualifying references, except when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. For such patents, the prior art date is determined under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as it existed prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)).

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 102 prior to the amendment by the AIPA that forms the basis for the rejections under this section made in the attached Office action:

**A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –**

**(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.**

For more information on revised 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) visit the USPTO website at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or call the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (703) 305-1622.